**CHNSA Fall Newsletter…October, 2014**

Hello Cross Country Skiers,

Fall is in the air and the brilliantly colored leaves are now rapidly falling, which means that snow will be fast approaching. Here’s the news from CHNSA…as an email list participant, we’re sending the annual newsletter and membership form electronically to save a tree and some postage, so you won’t see another solicitation.

You may have heard that we just finished totally **renovating** **the Crow’s Foot** **trail** (new last year), with major donations (including excavator time) from three supporters of CHNSA totaling almost $9000. We’ve widened the trail in many places and improved the drainage patterns for a drier trail and more reliable grooming. The entire trail is now seeded and mulched, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers over four workdays. It will be groomed this winter, to a high point of land at 2000 feet, for traditional classical skiing and for skaters!

The response to our addition of a **dog loop** last year was very positive, so we have decided to implement one again for this winter. If you are a dog owner who used the dog loop last year, please note that we are **changing the dog loop** at a landowner’s request. The loop will no longer be located on Sugarbush and Marijke’s Mainline. It will start from Toothacher Swamp at the Bert White Road parking lot as it did last year, but this year we will post Skunk Brook, Dead River Run, and the Big Baldy link to Bear Scat Draw back to the parking lot as the designated dog loop.

News from the north end trails on the Handy land is that a bridge on **Owl’s Glen** gave out and the trail will be **discontinued**. At the owners’ request, other trails accessed from the Handy Road parking area will remain ungroomed as a backcountry experience.

The donated, used heater we tried last winter didn’t work well. We are still hoping to install power and a **functioning heater** in the hut at the Bert White Road parking area. We’re currently waiting on a quote from a local electrician and will then need to obtain permission from the Huntington selectboard to hook up to a power pole next to the parking area.

And….by popular request, we’re planning to have a rented **Port-o-Let available** at the parking area! WOW!!! We’ll try not to go overboard on the amenities : - )

Our **next trail project** is to flag and, later this fall, cut and clear a link from Crow’s Foot to Dead River Run that will give skiers some fun new options. This is another ambitious plan that will require that you become involved with a new membership or renewal so we have the resources to construct the trail next summer. See if you can encourage a friend to become a first-time member. At the same time, we need enthusiastic skiers to step up and consider a tax-deductible donation to CHNSA to keep the positive energy and improvements to CHNSA sustainable.

**Dates to remember**: **October 25**, 9am at Bert White parking lot, bridge construction on Crow’s Foot;

 **November workdays TBA** for clearing Dead River Run to Crow’s Foot link (suggestions for

 naming this trail!)

 **December 6 Annual Meeting**-2pm trail walk, 3:30 meeting, followed by bonfire.

 Meet at Bert White parking lot for trail walk, meeting, and bonfire.

We are beginning to see 2014-15 memberships arrive. Now is the time! Please see the enclosed/attached season pass and donation form, and then break out the checkbook to join our CHNSA community and make it your own!!

Thanks so much!

Dave Brautigam, CHNSA President